

Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2014



**WELSH
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Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2014



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Introduction

This is the sixteenth annual report of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce species in Wales in 2014.

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2015	1	13	14	10	18	41	70	167
2013	2	11	5	12	14	40	45	129
2012	0	5	4	17	37	49	35	147
2011	0	4	9	10	30	26	72	151
2010	2	7	1	10	33	16	70	137

2014 finally added Caspian Gull to the Welsh list, with the bird at Gresford and the 2nd record coming close on its heels from Cosmeston. There was also the 2nd Blyth's Pipit, this time on the mainland at St. David's Head, two Blyth's Reed Warblers, one each for Bardsey and Skomer, which constituted only the 3rd & 4th Welsh records (odd when this species has been down-graded in the rest of the UK and is no longer assessed by BBRC). Then there were the 4th Welsh records for Great Spotted Cuckoo, Ross's & Franklin's Gulls and Collared Pratincole. Added to the mix came five Kumlien's Gulls, the 6th Lesser Scaup, 7th & 8th Citrine Wagtails (both on Bardsey and the 9th Great Snipe. All in all the highest total of rare birds accepted in Wales in one year but of that total there were at least 22 Great White Egrets and 18 Great Shearwaters !

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new BOU British List (2011) and includes all those records assessed by the WRP along with those accepted by BBRC (shown in *italics*). Descriptions of scarce species were received from the County Recorders of all Welsh Counties and occasionally directly from the observers. The report includes many digital photos and WRP welcomes the submission of any photographic evidence but this ideally should be accompanied by supporting evidence. Occasionally the Panel also receives descriptions of other species to assess from County Recorders and Editors. These are not detailed in this report.

WRP would like to thank everyone who submitted records, all the photographers, the County Recorders and everyone else who has helping in the assessment process.

Scarce species (assessed by WRP) are defined as those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually in Wales. As of Jan. 1st 2014 the full list of species which the Panel considers is as follows:

Bean Goose	American Wigeon	Green-winged Teal	Ring-necked Duck
Ferruginous Duck	Surf Scoter	White-billed Diver	Cory's Shearwater
Great Shearwater	Wilson's Petrel	Night Heron	Great White Egret
Cattle Egret	Purple Heron	White Stork	Glossy Ibis
Black Kite	Montagu's Harrier	Rough-legged Buzzard	White-tailed Eagle
Golden Eagle	Red-footed Falcon	Corncrake	Spotted Crake
Crane	Stone-Curlew	American Golden Plover	Kentish Plover
Temminck's Stint	White-rumped Sandpiper	Pectoral Sandpiper	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope	Ring-billed Gull	Caspian Gull	White-winged Black Tern
Alpine Swift	Bee-eater	Golden Oriole	Red-backed Shrike
Woodchat Shrike	Bearded Tit	Short-toed Lark	Shore Lark
Red-rumped Swallow	Greenish Warbler	Dusky Warbler	Radde's Warbler
Pallas's Warbler	Barred Warbler	Subalpine Warbler	Icterine Warbler
Melodious Warbler	Aquatic Warbler	Marsh Warbler	Rose-coloured Starling
Nightingale	Bluethroat	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Red-throated Pipit
Tawny Pipit	Olive-backed Pipit	Serin	Common Redpoll
Arctic Redpoll	Common Rosefinch	Corn Bunting	Girl Bunting
Ortolan Bunting	Rustic Bunting	Little Bunting	

As of 1st Jan. 2015 Great White Egret dropped off WRP list, with Red-throated Pipit and Subalpine Warbler reverting back to BBRC and Lesser Scaup, Citrine Wagtail, Penduline Tit and Blyth's Reed Warbler dropping from BBRC onto WRP.

Scarce races are considered on the same basis (ie. all those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually). However, it is acknowledged that the status, and in some case the identification, of some races is very uncertain. The WRP welcomes well-documented submissions of races that observers consider to be scarce in Wales. Through this process we hope to establish the occurrence of these forms but submissions will probably in most cases require detailed descriptions, photographic evidence and in some cases biometrics or a specimen.

BBRC have requested submission of rare races (see Kehoe, C. 2006 Racial identification and assessment in Britain, British Birds 99: 619-645 for extra guidance) and the WRP will forward any claims that are considered sufficiently rare for BBRC to assess. Examples of races for which the WRP would like to receive reports are:

Black Brant Goose – <i>nigricans</i>	Iceland Gull – <i>kumlienii</i>	Common Guillemot – <i>hyperborea</i>
Razorbill – <i>torda</i>	Little Auk – <i>polaris</i>	Great Spotted Woodpecker – <i>major</i>
Grey-headed Wagtail – <i>thunbergii</i>	Siberian Chiffchaff – <i>tristis</i>	Treecreeper – <i>familiaris</i>
Coal Tit – <i>ater</i>	Jay – <i>glandarius</i>	Jackdaw – <i>monedula</i>
Redpolls – <i>islandica</i> / <i>rostrata</i>	Bullfinch – <i>pyrrhula</i>	

In the systematic list the figures following each species / race name refer to the number of accepted individuals in Wales up to 1991 [included in Birds in Wales (Lovegrove et al)], since 1991 but not including 2014 and finally the number this year. Where two records probably relate to the same bird then only one is added to the total, while if two records are only possibly of the same bird, then both are added into the totals. In some cases the figures suggest changes in occurrence in the last twenty years, although it should be noted that some apparent declines may be due, to some extent, to a decline in the habit of observers submitting descriptions or some apparent increases to improved identification criteria and better optics or cameras.

The names that appear after individual records are of those observers who sent in descriptions (if the finder is known then his /her name is included in *italics*) and are included here to show recognition of the time taken to produce a description and also the observer's commitment to the nationally recognised system of rare bird record assessment, unless there is a specific request that their name is not shown.

The Panel consists of six voting members, in 2014 they were: Reg Thorpe (Chairman) – Caernarfon, Mike Powell – Glamorgan, Robin Sandham – Anglesey, Marc Hughes – Caernarfon, Richard Dobbins - Pembroke, Steve Stansfield - Bardsey and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green - Ceredigion. The longest serving member of the Panel retires and a new member is elected annually by the Welsh County Recorders and the Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society. WRP is always on the lookout for new members, anyone who is interested should contact their County Recorder or the WRP Secretary.

Descriptions, photos, videos and any other relevant evidence of WRP species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting (WRP description forms are available from the Secretary / County Recorders and downloadable from the WOS Website), preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the **WRP Secretary: Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan, Ceredigion. SA43 2AR. (01239 811561)**. The Panel are keen to receive any descriptions or photographs of electronic form, either on disc or by e-mail: welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk

Details of records submitted, but not found acceptable or currently pending for information are found in appendix 1.

Systematic List of Accepted Records in 2014

American Wigeon (6, 13, 1)

Anas Americana

Chwiwell Americana

Breeds North America, winters south to Panama.

Gwent: Uskmouth, 3rd – 8th Feb. (C. Rutter, T. Chinnick).

This was the first record in Wales since 2007 and only the third record for Gwent (the others were at Peterstone and Dingestow).



Green-winged Teal (10, 33, 5)

Anas carolinensis

Corhwyaden Asgell - Werdd

Breeds in North America. Males.

Pembroke: Male from 2013 at Newgale until 1st Apr.
Second male, Newgale, 19th Jan – 1st Apr (A. Mears, D. Gibbs, DJ Astins).
Gwent: Male, Peterstone, 7th – 19th Feb (R. Waller, R. Price).
Anglesey: Male, Holyhead, 17th -21st Apr (KG Croft, photo S. Culley)
E. Glam / Gower: male, Kenfig Saltmarsh 25th Mar – 8th Apr (D. Coombs).



Photo above of two Green-winged Teals on Newgale Marsh by B. Haycock.

Ring-necked Duck (12, 28, 0)

Aythya collaris

Hwyaden Dorchog

Breeds North America, winters south to Costa Rica.

2013 Montgomery: female, Llyn Ebyr, 30th – 31st Mar. (O. Selly).

Lesser Scaup (0, 5, 1)*Aythya affinis**Hwyaden Benddu Leiaf*

Breeds from C Alaska through Canada to Hudson Bay & S to Washington & South Dakota. Isolated populations E of Great Lakes. Winters along both coastlines of USA, in E from New Jersey to Mexico, W Indies, C America to N Colombia.

E. Glam: male, Cosmeston Lakes / Cardiff Bay, 2014 – 16th Feb, returning 4th Sept until the end of the year (per County Recorder).
Brecon: Llangorse Lake, 7th Oct – 24th Feb 2015, (M. Waldron et al) photo opposite.



The Llangorse bird was carrying a red nasal saddle, coded "VH", which was fitted when caught, as a first-winter, at Sao Jacinto, Aveiro, Portugal on 20th Dec 2013. It remained there until 3rd Feb 2014 before being found at Llangorse.

Subsequently it was seen at Winterset Res., South Yorkshire on 4th May 2015. Lesser Scaup dropped off BBRC list onto WRP list as of 1st Jan. 2015.

Surf Scoter (22, 36, 4)*Melanitta perspicillata**Mor-hwyaden yr Ewyn*

Breeds northern North America, winters on the Atlantic coast, south to North Carolina.

Denbigh: three males + one female, north Wales coast from 22nd Oct 2014 remained until March 2015 but increasing to six males & a female.

Pembroke: male, Amroth / Telpyn Point 12th Jan (DJ Astins).

The three males have been wintering off the north Wales coast for the last five years.

Cory's Shearwater (34, 66, 4)*Calonectris diomedea**Aderyn Drycin Cory*

A temperate to tropical species, nesting in colonies and rocky islands in the Canaries, Madeira and Azores and through the Mediterranean.

Pembroke: Skokholm, one on 1st Aug. (R. Brown).

Strumble Head, two on 30th Aug (A. Rogers).

Strumble Head, one on 31st Aug. (SL Murray).

Great Shearwater (81, 155, 18)*Puffinus gravis**Aderyn Drycin Mawr*

Late summer / autumn passage migrant that breeds in the south Atlantic.

Pembroke: off Strumble Head, single on 17th & 24th, four on 29th, ten on 30th and two on 31st Aug (A. Rogers et al).

Cattle Egret (5, 35, 2)

Bubulcus ibis

Creyr y Gwartheg

Common and widespread in S. Spain & Portugal with small expanding populations in France and Italy. Northern populations disperse outside the breeding season, mostly into Africa. Cere./Pemb: Teifi Marshes, 4th Oct (T. Evans, Ch. Jones). Photo opposite. Flint: Burton Mere Wetlands RSPB 3rd Sept – 13th Dec (P. Haslam) also at Connah's Quay, 5th – 6th Sept (J. D'Arcy, per R. Sandham).



Photo of Egrets by D. King from the English side of Burton Mere Wetlands on 10th Sept, showing Great White top left and Cattle bottom right.

Great White Egret (5, 57, 22)

Ardea alba

Creyr Mawr Gwyn

Breeds Netherlands in small numbers and from Hungary eastwards to Japan and south Australia, Africa south of the Sahara also southern North, Central and South America. European population winters mostly in the north Mediterranean.

Beacon: one at Llangorse from November 2013, then two from 9th Jan until 6th May (MJ Waldron, VA King et al).

Possibly returning bird from 23rd Sept (K. Noble), increasing to two from 2nd Nov and then three from 23rd Dec (per County Recorder).

Brec/ Rad: Ffordd Fawr, Galsbury from 27th Oct until 1st Nov, then assumed to move to Llangorse (VA King et al).

Gower: Two, Llanrhidian Marsh, Jan – 9th Apr, one 21st Apr & 30th Sept, with two from 7th Nov onwards (per County Recorder). Briton Ferry, 29th Nov. (G. Randall, D. Sharps, per C. Recorder).

Gower: Kenfig Saltmarsh, 15th May (M. Hipkin, D. Coombs) – also E. Glam.
 Carmar: Dinefwr Ponds from 2013 – 16th Feb, presumed same returning 31st Oct until end of the year (per C. Recorder).
 Penclacwydd from 30th Sept – Nov, then Lliedi 5th Nov and two Llangennech 12th Nov, one on 19th (all per C. Recorder and presumed Gower birds).
 Pemb: Bosherton, 30th Mar (C. Hurford).
 St. David's, 21st Apr (B. Davies).
 Castle Martin Corse, 1st Nov. (R. Ellis).
 Mont.: Lake Vyrnwy, 6th – 7th May (per C. Recorder).
 Anglesey: Cors Erddreiniog, 6th – 14th May (L. Colley, D. Wright).
 Caernarfon: Menai Straits, 4th Sept (R. Pritchard).
 Gwent: NWR, 20th June (J. Wilson).
 Uskmouth, 9th Aug (R. Clarke, V. Thomas).
 Goldcliff, 29th Sept, 16th & 22nd Oct (M. Pointon, MM Meehan).
 EGlam: Kenfig Saltmarsh, 15th May (M. Hipkin, D. Coombs).
 E. Glam: Kenfig pool & saltmarsh, 30th June – 8th July (DG Carrington).
 Cardiff Bay, photo, 23rd July (B. Salter).
 Kenfig Saltmarsh, 4th Oct (DG Carrington).
 Llwyn-on-Res., 7th Oct (T. Griffiths, M. Hogan).
 Hensol, 13th Oct (M. Hebden).
 Lavernock, 13th Oct (P. Bristow).
 Denbigh: Llyn Alwen, 20th – 25th July (I. Evans) then at Llyn Brenig, 3rd Aug (J. Davies).
 Ceredigion: Ynysir RSPB 26th June & 1st July (R. Jones).
 Cere/Mont: Dyfi Estuary, at Ynyshir from 20th Sept until mid-October (A. Williams et al).
 Flint: two on the Dee from 9th Sept onwards (G. Robinson, CE Wells).



Above, at Bosherton by C. Hurford.

This species dropped off the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list as of Jan. 1st 2006 and since then numbers have increased dramatically, with some individuals remaining in the area for several years, as in the Burry, and others perhaps coming back to winter in the same places, as in the Brecon & Carmarthen birds. The number of records have increased annually, to such an extent that it is no longer possible to track individual birds. Therefore as of 1st Jan 2015 this species will not require a WRP description. Having said that there were many claims of this species that were deemed NOT PROVEN, mainly due to the lack of detail in the description and observers not ruling out albino Herons.

Purple Heron (38, 23, 3)

Ardea purpurea

Creyr Portfor

Dispersive migrant, from warmer temperate to tropical zones, southern Europe.

E. Glam / Gower: Kenfig Rivermouth, 30th Apr (N. Donaghy).
 Pembroke: Skokholm, 8th June (R. Brown, R. Dobbins, W. James).
 Caernarfon: Morfa Aber, 15th Nov (R. Roberts).
 Anglesey: Cors Crygill 18th – 26th Nov (I. Simms), photo below left.
 Presumably the Morfa Aber and Cors Crygill records were of the same bird.



Night Heron (32, 15, 1)

Nycticorax nycticorax

Creyr y Nos

Rare visitor to Wales from southern Europe.

E. Glam: Cosmeston, 12th June (P. Howlett). Photo above right.

Black Stork (5, 6, 1)

Ciconia nigra

Ciconia Du

Breeds C. Iberia & E. France to Russia and small numbers into N. Greece & Turkey. Most are migratory, wintering Africa, S & SE Asia.

Caernarfon: Conwy, 20th May (R. Sandham).

Denbigh: Upper Colwyn Bay, 20th May (HR Cook).

Presumed same bird.

White Stork (- , 34, 2)

Ciconia ciconia

Ciconia Gwyn

Migrant in warmer Boreal to warm temperate zones, USSR, China and central Europe.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 19th Apr. (SD

Stansfield, B. Porter),

photo opposite by B. Porter.

E. Glam.:Lisvane, 21st Apr.

(P. Bristow).



Glossy Ibis (11, 94, 2)

Plegadis falcinellus

Crymanbig Ddu

Migrant from warm temperate and tropical zones, Greece, Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East.

Carmarthen: one at Penclacwydd, 24th Apr –

9th May with two there 10th – 16th May (photo

per W. Thomas).



Black Kite (6, 11, 1)*Milvus migrans**Barcud du*

Breeds throughout continental Europe, most in Spain, France and Germany, with smaller populations in all, except maritime NW Europe and Scandinavia. To E, breeds European Russia to Kazakhstan and C Siberia. Nominate race winters Africa and NW Indian subcontinent. Other races resident or dispersive in sub-Saharan Africa, Indian subcontinent, E and SE Asia and Australia.

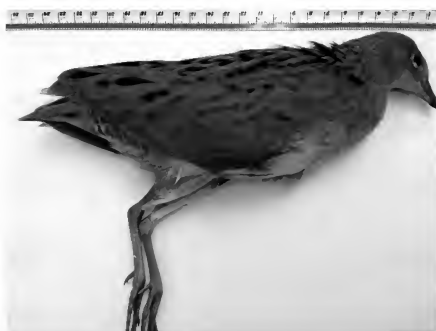
Pembroke: Skomer, 16th May (E. Stubbings).

Corn Crake (-, 50, 1)*Crex crex**Rhegen yr Yd*

Breeding bird in Britain, mainly in north & western Scotland and Ireland. Last bred in Wales in 1994.

2014 Denbigh: found alive but subsequently died, Rhyl 16th Sept (per C. Recorder), photo below left.

2013 Meiri: calling, Llyn Barfog, 16th July (D. Elias).

**Spotted Crake (-, 36+, 2)***Porzana porzana**Rhegen Fraith*

Rare visitor and occasional breeder.

Brecon: heard calling, 23rd & 24th May (site and observer with-held).

Anglesey: Malltraeth, 30th July (J. Parry), photo above right.

Common Crane (19, 27, -)*Grus grus**Garan*

A rare visitor to Wales from Central Europe where it breeds, wintering in southern Europe around the Mediterranean and Africa.

E. Glam. / Gwent: many records presumably relating to birds from the Somerset re-introduction scheme.

Stone Curlew (27, 14, 2)

Burhinus oedipnemos

Rhedwr y Moelydd

Scarce breeding bird in SE England. Commoner on mainland Europe.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 1st Apr (B. Porter, SD Stansfield, M. Carter), photo opposite by B. Porter.

Brecon: Brynhenllys, 15th May (G. Roberts).



Ben Porter

Kentish Plover (28, 16, 1)

Charadrius alexandrinus

Cwtiad Caint

Formerly bred in the UK. Now a scarce migrant from the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe.

Gower: juv., Crymlyn Burrows, 18th – 20th Oct. (M. Hipkin), photo opposite.



Pectoral Sandpiper (65, 64, 3)

Calidris melanotos

Pibydd Cain

Breeds northeast Siberia and northern North America. Winters in southern South America.

Gwent: NWR, 27th -28th May (Ce Jones, T. Chinnick).

Goldcliff, 24th Sept, (M. Meehan, VB Picken).

Caernarfon: Morfa Madryn, 14th – 22nd Sept (P. Lewis, B. Myerscough).



Above: Pectoral Sandpiper at Morfa Madryn by B. Garrett , right Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Cemlyn by P. Holmes.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (31, 30, 0)

Calidris subruficollis

Pibydd Bronllwyd

Breeds in Alaska and North-west Canada, winters in northern Argentina and Uruguay.

2013 Anglesey: Cemlyn, 20th June (P. Holmes).

Lesser Yellowlegs (9, 9, 1)

Tringa flavipes

Melyngoes Bach

Breeds northern North America. Winters USA south to southern South America.

Pembroke: juv. Skomer 11th – 12th Sept (L. Langley, J. Moss), then at Marloes Mere 15th Sept. (B. Southern). Photo below on Skomer by L. Langley.



Great Snipe (7, 1, 1)

Gallinago media

Giach Fawr

Scarce and local breeder Norway & Sweden with a smaller fragmented population Poland & Estonia. Winters in sub-Saharan Africa.

Radnor: juv. trapped & ringed, Llanbadarn Fynydd, 9th Oct, (P. Leafe, A. Cross). Photo opposite.

Of the nine Welsh records, all bar this and the previous record, on Bardsey 10th Oct 2003, were of individuals that had been shot before 1950 (two in Brecon, two in Denbigh, two in Ceredigion and one in Caernarfon). The discovery of one, whilst lamping, in Radnor was a turn up for the books.



Collared Pratincole (2, 1, 1)

Glareola pratincola

Cwtiadwennol Dorchog

Breeds locally throughout Mediterranean basin from N. Africa & S. Iberia to Black Sea, most in S. Spain, Portugal & Greece. Winters in sub-Saharan Africa.

Pembroke: Skokholm, 1st May (N. McMahon, R. Thorne, N. Wood).

Accepted by BBRC as the first record for Pembroke and only the third record for Wales.

There are three previous accepted records of this species in Wales, Penclawdd, Gower, 27th May 1973, Rhosneigr, Anglesey 6th June 1983 and at Penclacwydd, Carmarthenshire 14th June – 13th July 2005.

Bonaparte's Gull (3, 16, 0)

Chroicocephalus Philadelphia

Gwylan Bonaparte

Breeds widely across N North America from W and C Alaska through Canada to James Bay. Winters locally on ice-free rivers and lakes in N USA, and S along both coasts of USA to Mexico and Caribbean.

E. Glam: 12th Jan – 10th Apr. Cardiff Bay & Cosmeston (A. Bevan, C. Jones et al)
23rd – 30th Mar., Cardiff Bay (P. Bristow, N. Donaghy).

Presumed returning birds.

Ross's Gull (1, 2, 1)

Rhodostethia rosea

Gwylan Ross

Locally common on tundra of NE Siberia, rare & local in Canada. Siberian birds migrate eastwards in September to unknown wintering area.

Gower: 1st w, 8th – 16th Feb, Afan

Rivermouth, (M. Hipkin et al).

Photo opposite by M. Hipkin.

The previous records came from Fishguard Harbour Feb 1981, Aberystwyth & Porthmadog Dec 1994 & Jan 1995 and at Blackpill Feb 2002.



Franklin's Gull (0, 3, 1)

Larus pipixcan

Gwylan Franklin

Breeds locally throughout interior provinces of temperate W. Canada, east to Great Lakes and south to Midwest USA. Winters along Pacific coast of South America.

Gower / Carms: 1st winter, Penclacwydd, then Crofty, Burry Inlet, 18th -28th Apr (B. Stewart et al). Photo opposite.



The only previous Welsh records came from Eglwys Nunydd Res, Gower 1998, Blackpill, Gower 1999 and Pentre Dafis, Carmarthen 2005.

Ring-billed Gull (- , - , 3)

Larus delawarensis

Gwylan Fodrwylbig

Pemb: adult, Llŷs yr fran Res.

The Pembroke bird has been returning to the same reservoir for the last three years.

Pemb: adult, Llŷs yr fran Res., from Dec 2013 – 15th Feb 2014, returning 28th Dec until the end of the year.

Gower: adult, Blackpill, 1st – 27th

Mar (SL Murray et al) photo opposite by B. Stewart.

Adult, Loughor, 11th Mar (P.

Larkin, B. Stewart).

Ceredigion: adult, Llanrhystud, 15th Mar. (A. Williams).



Caspian Gull (0, 0, 2)

Larus cachinnans

Gwylan Caspia

Denbigh: 1st year, Gresford Flash, 2nd – 6th Dec. (D. Halpin et al), photo below left.

E. Glam: 1st year, Cosmeston, 8th Dec (L. Middleton, A. Burns), photo below right.



These represent the first accepted records of this species in Wales.

Kumlien's Gull (0, 3, 5)

Larus glaucooides kumleini

Gwylan yr Arctig

Very rare vagrant from Greenland.

Pembroke: adult Newgale, 10th Jan – 19th Feb. (DJ Astins, M. Ahmed et al).

Another adult, Newgale, 15th – 18th Feb. (M. Young-Powell, C. Hurford).

Gower: 1st w, Blackpill, 8th Feb & 2nd Mar (C. Brewer et al).

Adult Aberavon, 16th Feb (G. Jones, C. Hurford).

E. Glam: adult, Ogmore, 11th & 17th Mar. (P. Roberts et al).

The only other records came from Llŷs y fran, Pembroke in 1998, from Blackpill, wintering annually from 1998 – 2000 and an adult at Cosmeston in 2012.



Adult Kumlien's Gulls, left at Newgale by B. Haycock, right at Aberavon by C. Hurford.

The criteria for acceptance of immatures of this race of Iceland Gull has evolved quite significantly of late and before assessment WRP asked for guidance from county recorders and gull experts, most notably Martin Garner and Dr. Chris Gibbins (NE Scotland). Taking their advice on board WRP decided to follow the lead of NE Scotland Rarities Panel, requesting a series of photographs showing the open wing, and only accepting those that showed a distinct contrast between darker outer four primaries and lighter inner primaries (those showing a lack of contrast were deemed NOT PROVEN). Several claims did not fit these identification criteria and County Recorders are asked to record these claims as nominate Iceland Gulls. WRP will continue to collect descriptions & photographs of any such claim, in case identification criteria change in the future.



The above photos are of individuals claimed at Fendrod Lake, Gower, but failed to make the grade with the new ID criteria due to a lack of contrast between darker outer and paler inner primaries.



White-winged Black Tern (24, 11, 1)

Chlidonias leucopterus

Corswennol Adeinwen

Breeds from Hungary and Bulgaria eastwards through Asia. The Western Palearctic population winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Anglesey: Cemlyn, 16th – 18th June
(D. Wright). Photo opposite.



Great Spotted Cuckoo (2, 1, 1)

Clamator glandarius

Cog Frech

Pembroke: 1st year, Penally, 11th – 28th Mar (Chr. Jones et al).

There have been only three other records in Wales, at Plas Penhelig, Aberdovey, Meirionydd in 1956, at Newborough, Anglesey in 1960 and at Trefeiddan, St. David's, Pembroke on 10th Mar 2009.



Bee-eater (29, 30, 3)*Merops apiaster**Gwybedog y Gwenyn*

Scarce visitor from Mediterranean Europe.

Pembroke: three, St. David's Head, 17th May (K & M. Young-Powell).**Golden Oriole (-, 19+, 5)***Oriolus oriolus**Euryn*

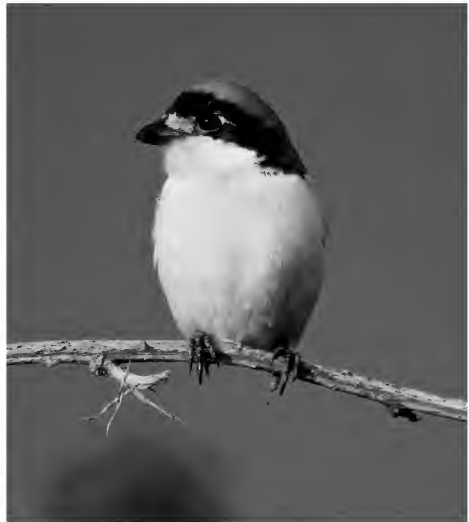
Rare visitor from Mediterranean Europe.

Anglesey: f/imm. Cemlyn, 5th May (D. Wright).Caernarfon: f/imm. Bardsey 19th May (M. Carter).
Imm. Bardsey 26th May (SD Stansfield).Pembroke: male, St. David's Head, 25th May (M. Young-Powell).Gwent: male, NWR, 27th May (D. Spittle).**Red-backed Shrike (-, 71, 2)***Lanius collurio**Cigydd Cefngoch*

Breeds throughout most of mainland Europe.

Pembroke: female, Skomer 8th June (J. Moss).Imm. Porthselau, St. David's Head, 30th Sept – 2nd Oct (J&M. Best).**Woodchat Shrike (67, 42, 4)***Lanius senator**Cigydd Pengoch*

Breeds from France and northwest Africa east to Ukraine and southern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Pembroke: Male, Treginnis, St. David's, 20th - 21st Apr (J. Wadkin).Female, Deer Park, Martin's Haven, 12th - 13th June (B. Southern).E. Glamorgan: Gileston, 28th – 29th Apr (R. Francis, R. Smith, J. Slocombe).Meirionnydd: male, Pennal, Dyfi estuary, 17th May (J & T Wigley).

Woodchats, left at Treginnis by J. Wadkin, right at Gileston by R. Smith.

Jackdaw (- , 10, 5)

Corvus monedula

Jac y do

Individuals showing characteristics of the Nordic form *C. m. monedula*, include:

Pembroke: Nine Wells, 1st Jan (M. Young-Powell).
Sealyham, mid-Feb, (M. Young-Powell).
Skomer, 3rd Apr (J. Moss, E. Stubbings).
Skomer, 15th Nov (J. Moss, E. Stubbings).

Ceredigion: Aberystwyth University, 27th Oct (J. Turner-Moss).

The panel is not certain whether these records relate to genuine Scandinavian birds or whether the plumage characteristics they show are within normal variation for British Jackdaws. Therefore the panel requests as many photographed records as possible to try to solve this dilemma.

Bearded Tit (- , - , -)

Panurus biarmicus

Titw Barfog

Resident in the UK (mainly the south East). Erruptive. Bred in Wales in small numbers in Gwent.

Individuals have bred for the last five years at the Uskmouth reed-beds of the Newport Wetland Reserve. Due to annual dispersals, descriptions are only required by WRP for records away from Gwent & E. Glamorgan. No records were received away from these areas in 2014.

Short-toed Lark (12, 21, 2)

Calandrella brachydactyla

Ehedydd Llwyd

Rare visitor. Breeds from Iberia, southern France and NW Africa east to Manchuria.

Pembroke: Martin's Haven, 19th – 21st Sept (DJ Astins).

Anglesey: Cemlyn, 7th – 12th Oct (D. Wright).

Greenish Warbler (8, 11, 2)

Phylloscopus trochiloides

Telor Gwyrdd

A vagrant, breeding in E Europe and Asia.

Pembroke: Skomer, 7th June (E. Stubbings).

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 4th Sept (S. Walton et al), photo below by SD Stansfield.



Western Bonelli's Warbler (6, 5, 1)

Phylloscopus bonelli

Telor Bonelli

Breeding range centred on SW Europe from Iberia to N France, S Germany, Italy, Austria, and locally in mountains of N Africa. Winters along S edge of Sahara, from Senegal and S Mauritania to N Cameroon.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 31st Aug (B. Porter et al), photo below.



Chiffchaff tristis (- , 14, 9)

Phylloscopus collybita tristis

Scarce autumn and overwintering visitor. Range and distribution little understood but occurrences appear to be increasing.

2014 Pemb: two, Pembroke Mill Pond, 16th Feb (A. Mears, R. Kelsh), photos below.
Skokholm, trapped & ringed, 2nd Nov (R. Brown).

2014 Caern: Bardsey, five on 29th Oct, two on 30th and one remaining until 31st
(SD Stansfield, S. Walton et al).

2014 Brec: Brecon Sewage Works 7th Feb – 24th Mar, with two there 3rd – 13th Mar
(K. Noble et al), photos below.

Brecon Swage Works 24th Nov (K. Noble), presumed same as above.

2008 Caern: two caught Bardsey, 22nd Apr (SD Stansfield).





Photo montage of the Pembroke Mill Pond birds by A. Mears.

Feathers from the one trapped on Skokholm were DNA tested by Aberdeen University and confirmed its taxonomy.

Change in criteria.

In a recent WRP review, the panel has decided to alter its criteria for acceptance, and is in the process of reviewing other records. WRP has decided that it will only accept records of *tristis*, if:

- series of good, clear photographs are obtained, showing all relevant features

Barred Warbler (40, 48, 8)

Sylvia nisoria

Telor Rhesog

Breeds from north Italy, Germany and south Sweden eastwards to Mongolia. Winters northeast Africa south to Kenya and southern Arabia.

Caernarfon:

Bardsey, 19th Sept (B. Porter).

Bardsey, trapped & ringed, 21st - 29th Sept (B. Porter), photo opposite.

Bardsey, 11th - 15th Oct (B. Porter).

Bardsey, 28th Oct (M. Carter).

Bardsey, 29th Oct (SD Stansfield).

Bardsey, 31st Oct (S. Walton).

Pemb: Ramsey, 29th Sept (G. Morgan).

Skomer, 25th Oct (J. Moss).



Siberian Lesser Whitethroat (0, 0, 1)

Sylvia c. blythi

Pembroke: trapped & ringed Skokholm, 3rd - 5th Oct (R. Brown).

A feather was sent for DNA analysis at Aberdeen University, which confirmed this as the first record of this race in Wales.

Eastern Subalpine Warbler (0, 4, 3)

Sylvia cantillans albistriata

Breeds SE Europe from Slovenia & S. Croatia to Greece and W. Turkey. Winters Sahel from Senegal to Sudan.

Pemb: male, St. David's Head, 13th Apr

(A & K. Thomas per M. Young-Powell).

1st s female, Skokholm, 15th May (R. Brown, G. Eagle).

Caern: female, Bardsey, 16th May

(P. Howlett, SD Stansfield), photo opposite.

Feathers from the Bardsey bird were DNA tested which confirmed its identity.

BOU may be about to split Subalpine Warbler into three species, all records from 1st Jan 2015 need to be sent to BBRC. All the previously accepted Eastern Subalpine Warblers have been on Bardsey, although many of those accepted as Subalpine Warblers in the past may have been Eastern and historical records will now be re-examined.



Subalpine Warbler sp.

2013 Pembroke: Skomer, 29th - 30th May (D. Boyle).

This record was submitted as Eastern but was deemed Not Proven by BBRC and is therefore recorded here as race undetermined.

Melodious Warbler (142, 70, 3)

Hippolais polyglotta

Telor Per

Breeds northeast Africa, Iberia, France, Switzerland and Italy. Winters in Africa, south of the Sahara.

Pembroke: Skomer, 3rd Sept (J. Moss, E. Stubbings).

Skomer, 26th Sept (J. Moss).

Skomer, 2nd – 4th & 10th Oct (J. Moss, E. Stubbings).

Icterine Warbler

(65, 41, 2)

Hippolais icterina

Telor Aur

Breeds from northeast France north to Norway and Sweden and east to western Siberia, also northern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

Pemb: Skokholm 2nd Sept (B. Dykes,

R. Brown et al).

Skomer, 2nd Sept (J. Moss, LP L), photo opposite.



Marsh Warbler (11, 11, 2)

Acrocephalus palustris

Telor y Gwerni

A small population breeds in south England. Main breeding grounds are in Eastern Europe.

Caern: Bardsey, 29th – 30th May

(B. Porter, SD Stansfield et al).

Bardsey, 4th Sept (SD Stansfield), photo opposite.



Savi's Warbler (4, 2, 1)

Locustella luscinioides

Telor Savi

Breeds Iberia, north to southern Scandinavia and in Eastern Europe. Winters in west Africa.

Gwent: Uskmouth, 24th May – 8th June (M. Meehan et al).

First Welsh record since one at Malltraeth, Anglesey in 1999.

Blyth's Reed Warbler (0, 2, 2)

Acrocephalus dumetorum

Telor y Cyrs Blyth

Breeds S Finland, Baltic countries & European Russia E through C Siberia to Lake Baikal & upper Lena River, & S through W Mongolia & NW China, Kazakhstan & Tajikistan to N Pakistan. Winters throughout Indian subcontinent S to Sri Lanka & E to NW Burma.

Pembroke: Skomer, 26th May, (E. Stubbings et al), photo below left.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, trapped & ringed 7th June (B. Porter, SD Stansfield et al), photo below left.



The other two Welsh records were from Bardsey in October 2001 and Skokholm in September 2013.

Rose-coloured Starling (26, 72, 2)

Sturnus roseus

Drudwen Wridog

Breeds from Hungary and Balkans east to Kazakhstan and southern Iran. Occasionally erupts west in summer. Winters in the Indian region.

Pembroke: juv., St. David's, 19th – 26th Sept (M. Thomas et al).

Anglesey: adult, near Valley, 9th June (N & J Rowbotham) photo below.



Red-breasted Flycatcher (126, 55, 9)

Ficedula parva

Gwybedog Brongoch

Breeds from southern Sweden south to Austria and Bulgaria eastwards across Siberia.
Winters in Pakistan, India and southeast Asia.

Caernarfon: Bardsey 12th Sept (S. Walton)
1st w, Uwchmynydd, 24th – 25th Oct (K. Atkinson).
1st w male, Bardsey, 29th Oct (SD Stansfield).
1st w, Bardsey, 2nd Nov (SD Stansfield).
Pembroke: 1st w, Skomer, 19th Sept (J. Moss).
1st w, Skokholm, 23rd Sept (R. Brown).
1st w, Skokholm, 25th – 29th Sept (R. Brown).
1st w, Skokholm, 29th Sept (R. Brown).
1st w, Skokholm 16th Nov (R. Brown).



Left on Skomer, above trapped and ringed on Skokholm.

Desert Wheatear (1, 8, 1)

Oenanthe deserti

Tinwen Diffaethwch

Vagrant. Breeds North Africa and from Caucasus across central Asia. Asian breeders winter Arabian Peninsula to NW India.

Pembroke: Skomer, 28th Oct (B. Buche, E. Stubbings). Photo below by E. Stubbings.



Nightingale (- , 30, 2)

Luscinia megarhynchos

Eos

Rare passage migrant.

Caernarfon: Bardsey 2nd May (SD Stansfield).

Bardsey, 2nd Sept (B. Porter), photo opposite.



Citrine Wagtail (0, 6, 2)

Motacilla citreola

Sigllen Sitraidd

Breeds in small, scattered colonies through S & E Europe from Iberia to Poland. Numerous & widespread from N Black Sea E to W Kazakhstan, with Volga/Ural River complex holding most of European population. Winters tropical W & C Africa & from Nile Delta to E Africa. Other populations in Indian subcontinent, E Asia, S Africa & Australia.

Caernarfon: 1st year female, Bardsey, 25th -26th May (SD Stansfield, B. Porter, S. Walton et al).

Juv., Bardsey, 8th – 11th Aug (B. Porter et al).



Citrine Wagtails, Bardsey, above female in May, below juv. in August, both by B. Porter.



Ben Porter

This species has dropped off BBRC onto WRP list as of 1st Jan. 2015.

Blyth's Pipit (0, 1, 1)

Anthus godlewskii

Corheddydd Blyth

Breeds N. Mongolia and extreme NE China. Winters locally throughout Indian subcontinent.

Pembroke: St. David's Head, 18th Nov. (K & M. Young-Powell, B. Haycock).

The only other Welsh record came from Bardsey, 16th – 17th Oct. 2005.

Common Rosefinch (39, 103, 5)

Carpodacus erythrurus

Llinos Goch

Breeds from Germany and southern Sweden eastwards to Kamchatka and from Georgia eastwards to central China. Has bred in Britain on a few occasions. Winters in India, southeast Asia and southern China.

Caern: imm. Bardsey, 29th June (SD Stansfield).

Pemb: 1st w, Skokholm, 5th – 10th Sept, (I. Grier, R. Brown).

1st w Trapped & ringed Teifi Marshes, 27th Sept (Ch. Jones), photo opposite.

Ramsey, 4th – 6th Oct (G. Morgan).

Gower: 1st w, Overton, 1st Dec (M. Hipkin).



Common Redpoll (- , 28 , 6)

Carduelis flammea

Llinos Bengoch

- 2014 Brecon: Llangorse, 2nd – 5th Jan. (G. Rees, MJ Waldron et al).
Llangorse, trapped & ringed 22nd Feb (J. Lewis, G. Ashwell, R. Clevely)
Photo below right.
- 2014 Mont: Llanfyllin, 24th Mar. (M. Haigh), photo below left.
- 2014 Caern: Bardsey, singles on 1st, 11th & 23rd Apr (SD Stansfield).
- 2013 Brecon: trapped & ringed Llangorse, 26th Oct. (J. Lewis)



As with *tristis* Chiffchaff, WRP has been holding back for several years on accepting / rejecting Common Redpoll claims, all down to the differing opinions across the UK as to what is a Common Redpoll. Birders on the “northern isles” and North-East are more used to seeing Common Redpolls and their criteria for ID are somewhat different from birders in the South-West. After many hours of discussion, WRP has decided to take the hard-line, that it will only accept records of individuals at the “Arctic” end of the spectrum of the Lesser → Common → Arctic cline, the larger, paler birds, showing well defined white coverts.



To allow WRP to assess this, only records accompanied with a series of good quality photographs will be accepted. Several records, kept on hold, over the last few years have therefore not made the grade and are therefore deemed Not Proven.

Two-barred Crossbill (2, 0, 4)

Loxia leucoptera

Croesbig Wenaden

Paleartic race breeds in the larch forests of N. Eurasia from N. Scaninavia to E. Siberia.

Outside breeding season occasionally disperses as far as NW Europe.

Flint: four, Nercwys Mountain, 17th Feb, (G. Morgan), photos below.

The only other Welsh records were of a dead male found at Llandrindod Wells in November 1912 and a male at Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr, Denbigh 3rd – 6th Mar 1991.



Ortolan Bunting (105, 55, 4)

Emberiza hortulana

Bras y Gerddi

Breeds continental Europe and Fenno-Scandia eastwards to northern Iran and Mongolia.

Winters south Arabia and Sahel zone of the south Sahara.

Pembroke: Skomer, 2nd Sept (J. Moss).

Skokholm, 4th Sept (G. Eagle et al), photo below left.

Skomer, 10th Sept (J. Moss), photo below right.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 3rd – 5th Sept (B. Porter).



Corn Bunting (- , -, 1)

Miliaria calandra

Bras yr Yd

Resident SE Britain and southern Europe. Population declining and no longer a breeding bird in Wales.

E. Glamorgan: 8th Sept (L. Middleton, A. Burns).

The last two records of this once common species in Wales came from Bardsey in June 2006 and April 2010.

Black-headed Bunting

(11, 15, 1)

Emberiza melanocephala

Bras Penddu

Breeds C Italy to Greece, Turkey, N Iraq, W Iran & N through Caucasus to Ukraine & S Russia. Winters W & C India. Pembroke: a female, Skomer 21st to 24th May (J. Moss). Photo opposite by A. Wilson.



Identification agreed – but bird likely to be escaped/falconers:

Golden Eagle

Aquila chrysaetos

Eryr Euraid

Breeds in Scotland.

Ceredigion: 5th year, summered around the north of the county (per County Recorder).

Gyr Falcon

Falco rusticolus

Hebog y Gogledd

In Europe, numerous Iceland & Norway, smaller populations breeding N. Sweden, Finland & Arctic Russia. European birds mostly resident but high-arctic breeders from N. Canada & Greenland migratory, occasionally wintering south to north-west Europe. Skomer 17th & 18th Aug, photo opposite.

Bardsey 20th & 21st Aug.

Presumed to be the same wandering escaped bird.



APPENDIX I - List of records that were deemed NOT PROVEN

Many of the records were not accepted because the Panel were not convinced, on the evidence before us, that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were the Panel satisfied that a mistake had been made.

Species	Site	County	Date
Great White Egret	Nedern	Gwent	20/6 & 21& 27/8/14
Great White Egret	Usk	Gwent	31/08/2014
Great White Egret	Llanfair-Kilgeddin	Gwent	28/03/2014
Great White Egret	Welshpool	Montgomery	08/05/2014
Great White Egret 2	Dyfi	Montgomery	16/11 – 9/12/14
Ring-billed Gull 1st	Blackpill	Gower	04/10/2014
Ring-billed Gull 2nd	Newgale	Pemb	12/01/2014
Pectoral Sandpiper	Marloes Mere	Pembroke	13/9/14
Golden Oriole	Abergele	Denbigh	06/06/2014
Red-rumped Swallow	Hensol Lake	East Glamorgan	30/4/2004
Barred Warbler	Bardsey	Caernarfon	31/10/ 2014
Grey-headed Wagtail	Aberdaron	Caernarfon	9/6/ 2013
Grey-headed Wagtail	Bardsey	Caernarfon	18/9/ 2014
Red-throated Pipit	Bardsey	Caernarfon	01/09/2014
Red-throated Pipit	St. David's	Pemb	18/09/2014
Corn Bunting	Uskmouth	Gwent	29/12/2014

APPENDIX II - List of records that have been PENDED for more information or requiring further assessment.

Richardson's Cackling Goose	Llanishen Resr, Cardiff	East Glamorgan	22/4/ 2012
Cackling Goose	Llangorse Lake	Brecon	1/2/ 2010
Cackling Goose	Ynys-hir RSPB	Ceredigion	1/10/ 2011
Macaronesian Shearwater	Wylfa Head	Anglesey	28/8/ 2006
Macaronesian Shearwater	Strumble Head	Pembroke	25/10/ 2000
Royal Tern	Mumbles, Swansea	Gower	21/12/1987
Thayer's Gull	Burry Holm	Gower	4-19/1/ 2014
Temminck's Stint	Goldcliff	Gwent	16/5/ 2014
Scan. Willow Warbler	Bardsey	Caernarfon	20/4/ 2007
Western Subalpine Warbler	Ramsey	Pembroke	8-9/5/14